

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

Page 11, replace the paragraph beginning at line 11 with the following new paragraph:

--Use of a casting mould as in the present invention results in a uniform, fine grained billet having good surface properties. To further enhance the surface properties it has been found useful to treat the refractory transition plate to reduce its reactivity to molten aluminum. Most such transition plates are fabricated from silica containing refractory material which is attacked by molten aluminum. The result is a decrease in ingot surface quality. One such means of protection is to use barium oxide or barium sulphate additions to the refractory, for example as produced by the methods of co-pending application Serial No. 10/735,076 filed December 11, 2003 ~~(Attorney's Docket No. 71743 CCD)~~, entitled "Horizontal Continuous Casting of Metals", assigned to the same assignee as the present invention, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference and suitable metal feed troughs and transfer sections are more fully described in co-pending application Serial No. 10/735,057 filed December 11, 2003 ~~(Attorney's Docket No. 71745 CCD)~~, entitled "Method for Suppressing Reaction of Molten Metals with Refractory Materials", assigned to the same assignee as the present invention, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.--